

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A provisioning method employing a DNS data model for relating DNS objects of a computer network to other DNS objects, and for expressing the software objects of a computer network in a form accessible by other network components, the method comprising:

configuring a central database to be able to implement the DNS data model, the DNS data model including

DNS domains entities that represent DNS domains of devices connected to a computer network and are related to various entities representing DNS permissions and types selected from the group comprising DNS ACLs entities, DNS ACL entries entities, DNS allow transfers entities, DNS allow queries entities, DNS domain types entities, DNS domain masters, and DNS master IPs entities; and

DNS hosts entities that represent various DNS hosts connected to the computer network; and

automatically provisioning the computer network according to the DNS data model.

2. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said DNS domains entities represent the DNS domains of one or more DNS hosts represented by said DNS hosts entities.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A provisioning method employing a DNS data model for relating DNS entities of a computer network to other DNC entities of the computer network,

and for expressing the DNS entities in a form accessible by other network components, the method comprising:

configuring a central database to be able to implement the DNS data model, the DNS data model including

- a plurality of devices entities;
- a plurality of DNS hosts entities;
- a plurality of DNS host types entities;
- a plurality of DNS ACLs entities;
- a plurality of DNS ACL entries entities;
- a plurality of DNS allow transfers entities;
- a plurality of DNS domain types entities;
- a plurality of DNS domains entities;
- a plurality of DNS allow queries;
- a plurality of DNS domain masters entities; and
- a plurality of DNS master IPs; and

automatically provisioning the computer network according to the DNS data model.

8. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, further comprising a plurality of DNS configuration entities.

9. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS hosts entities represent DNS host devices, and wherein said DNS hosts entities relate to:

- said DNS host types entities by a many-to-one relationship;
- said DNS domains entities by a many-to-one relationship; and
- a plurality of configuration entities by an optional one-to-many relationship.

10. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS host types entities represent allowed DNS host types, and wherein said DNS host types entities relate to said DNS hosts entities in a one-to-many relationship.

11. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS ACLs entities represent ACLs associated with specific DNS names, and wherein said DNS ACLs entities relate to:

    said DNS ACL entries entities by a one-to-many relationship;

    said DNS allow transfers entities by a one-to-many relationship; and

    said DNS allow queries entities by a one-to-many relationship.

12. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS ACL entries entities relate to said DNS ACLs entities by a many-to-one relationship.

13. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS allow transfers entities relate to:

    said DNS ACLs entities by a many-to-one relationship; and

    said DNS domains entities by a many-to-one relationship.

14. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS domain types entities represent the allowed types of DNS names for the network, and wherein said DNS domain types entities relate to said DNS domains entities by a one-to-many relationship.

15. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS domains entities represent the various DNS domains of the network, and wherein said DNS domains entities relate to:

    said DNS hosts entities by a one-to-many relationship;  
    said DNS allow transfers entities by a one-to-many relationship;  
    said DNS allow queries entities by a one-to-many relationship;  
    said DNS domain types entities by a many-to-one relationship;  
    said DNS domain masters entities by a many-to-one relationship; and  
    a plurality of network entities by an optional many-to-one relationship;.

16. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS allow queries entities represent specific DNS queries allowed on the network, and wherein said DNS allow queries entities relate to:

    said DNS domains entities by a many-to-one relationship; and  
    said DNS ACLs entities by a many-to-one relationship.

17. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS domain masters entities relate DNS domains represented by said DNS domains entities and DNS master IPs represented by DNS master IPs entities by way of a one-to-many relationship with said DNS domains entities and a many-to-one relationship with said DNS master IPs entities.

18. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein said DNS master IPs entities relate to DNS master IP addresses of the network, and relate to said DNS domain masters entities by a one-to-many relationship.